



## *Fight The Bite*

### *The First Line Of Defense*

**M**osquitoes are small flying insects that feed on human and animal blood or plant juices. Only female mosquitoes bite to get a blood meal for their growing eggs. Mosquitoes are generally considered a nuisance pest, but occasionally can transmit disease.

There are about 52 different species of mosquitoes in Mississippi. Several mosquito species have been associated with West Nile virus, an infection that can cause serious illness.

Some mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water around the home. They can breed in any standing water that lasts more than four days. Weeds, tall grass and shrubbery provide an outdoor home for adult mosquitoes, which may

also enter houses through unscreened windows or doors, or broken screens. Many kinds of mosquitoes will breed in discarded tires.

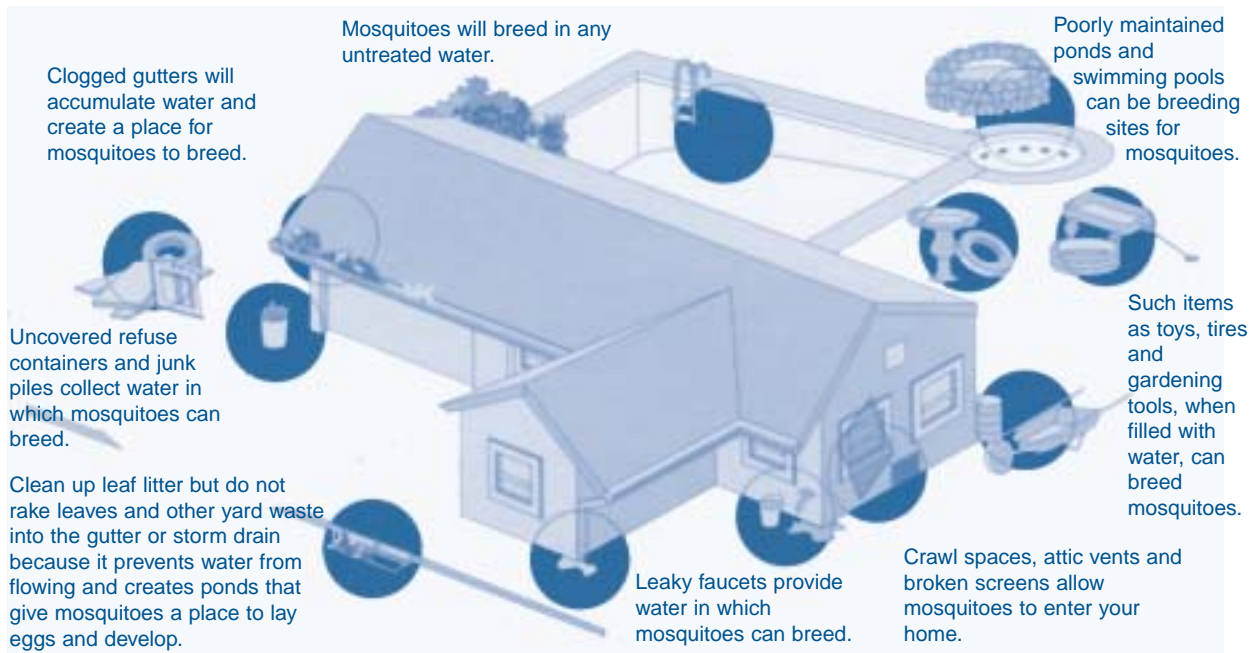
Some mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn when the air is calm, and that is when the females are most likely to bite. However, others will feed at any time of the day.

You can and should reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home:

- Reduce or eliminate all standing water in your yard and remove containers in which water can collect;
- Make sure all windows and doors that stay open have screens; and,
- Keep all screens repaired.



## How many breeding sites can you find?



**MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

*Public Health — The First Line of Defense*

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Catalog No: 8014